

HCS HB 878 -- SHERIFFS FOR THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, the sheriff of the City of St. Louis may appoint deputies and assistants only with the approval of a majority of the circuit judges of that circuit. This bill allows the sheriff of the City of St. Louis to hire deputies and assistants without the approval of a majority of the circuit judges.

Additionally, the sheriff of the City of St. Louis is not required to hold a valid peace officer license to hold the office of sheriff. This bill repeals that provision. This bill also requires any person appointed as a deputy or any like position to hold a valid peace officer license.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to HB 668 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the newly elected sheriff should have the ability to have his staff working under him without requiring the approval of a majority of the judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit. Sheriffs from various counties voiced their support for the new sheriff in St. Louis and they all said they would not have been able to do their job without their staff working with them.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Vernon Betts; Mike Sharp; World Wide Technologies; John Wheeler, Cole County Sheriff; Scott Lewis; Brad Cole; Sheriff Danny Morrison; and David Mahanna.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that there is no difference between the way the personnel committee is handling the hiring of the new sheriff's staff and how it handled the hiring of the previous sheriff's staff. The sheriff's appointees need to be properly vetted. The judges want to approve of the people appointed to serve under the sheriff because the appointees' primary responsibility is to protect the court.

Testifying against the bill was The Honorable Christopher McGraugh, 22nd Judicial Court.